Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 26 of the Specification with the following marked-up paragraph:

FIG. 1 shows, in a schematic way, a network orientation in which a user 10 may attempt to get information from servers 15 and 20 via a wide area network (WAN) 50. In this arrangement the user, via a terminal device such as a PC 60, can connect to a gateway into the wide area network, here shown as Internet 30 service provider (ISP) 40. Typically, the user's terminal facility is connected to the ISP via a standard telephone network 30 such as the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN). Other configurations are possible where direct connections into the ISP or into the wide area network are available. In this arrangement either one of the servers, or both, may desire to either charge for access to the information on the server or limit the access to information on the server based on some predetermined criteria. For example, the server 1, ~~12~~ 15, may provide an on-line version of a particular publication. The producer of the publication may desire to limit access to the publication to only those users willing to pay a subscription fee for the publication. Whenever the server decides to limit access to its resources, it must provide some facility by which it can authorize and/or authenticate a user who wishes to access a given resource. Typically today, each server that wishes to limit access to its resources must also provide a separate authentication/authorization facility. This is represented in each of the servers illustrated in FIG. 1. This arrangement creates a tremendous burden for those who wish to limit access to the resources. As the number of subscribers grows, the authentication and authorization facility resource for each server must be adapted to this growth. It also requires each individual who wishes to limit access to somehow incorporate additionally complex application software at additional cost to limit the access in the manner desired.